Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Compounds A compound of the general formula (I)

in which

X represents O, S, SO, SO₂, CH₂, CHF, CF₂ or represents NR^8 in which R^8 represents hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

R¹ and R² are identical or different and represent hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

- R^3 and R^4 are identical or different and represent hydrogen, halogen, cyano, (C_1-C_6) -alkyl, CF_3 , CHF_2 , CH_2F , vinyl or (C_3-C_7) -cycloalkyl, where at least one of the two substituents is not hydrogen,
- R⁵ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or halogen,
- R⁶ represents a group of the formula -S-R⁹, -S(O)_n-R¹⁰ [[,]] $\underline{\text{or}}$ -NR¹¹-C(O)-R¹² [[, -]] $\underline{\text{CH}}_2$ -R¹³-or-M-R¹⁴, in which

represents (C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, (C₃-C₈) cycloalkyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkenyl, phenyl or (C₆-C₁₀) aryl, benzyl (C₆-C₁₀) arylmethyl or represents a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic 5- to 10-membered heterocycle having up to four identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, where the abovementioned radicals are optionally substituted by one, two or three identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, oxo, cyano, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy, carboxyl and (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl,

n represents the number 1 or 2,

represents OR¹⁵,—NR¹⁶R¹⁷,—(C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl,—(C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl, (C₂-C₆)-alkenyl, phenyl or (C₆-C₁₀) aryl, benzyl (C₆-C₁₀) arylmethyl—or represents a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic 5- to 10 membered heterocycle having up to four identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, where the abovementioned radicals are optionally substituted by one, two or three identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, oxo, cyano, nitro, amino, NR¹⁸R¹⁹, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, optionally R²⁰-substituted (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl, (C₆-C₁₀)-aryl, which for its part is optionally substituted by halogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, nitro or cyano, -O-C(O)-R²¹, -C(O)-OR²², -C(O)-NR²³R²⁴, -SO₂-NR²⁵R²⁶, -NH-C(O)-R²⁷ and -NH-C(O)-OR²⁸, where

R⁴⁵ [[,]] R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰, R²¹, R²², R²³, R²⁴, R²⁵, R²⁶, R²⁷ and R²⁸ are identical or different and each represents hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl or (C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl which for their part are optionally mono- or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, amino,

carboxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonylamino, (C_1-C_5) -alkanoyloxy, a heterocycle or by phenyl which for its part is optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxyl,

and

 R^{16} and R^{17} are identical or different and independently of one another represent hydrogen, straight chain or branched (C₁-C₆) alkyl which may be mono or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of mono- (C₁-C₆) alkylamino, di-(C₁-C₆) alkylamino, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, (C₁-C₆) alkoxycarbonyl, carboxyl, pyridyl or (C₆-C₁₀) aryl, where the latter for its part is optionally substituted by halogen, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₆) alkyl or (C₁-C₆) alkoxy,

represent (C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl or represent a 5- to 7-membered heterocycle which contains one or two-nitrogen atoms, where cycloalkyl and heterocycle are optionally substituted by (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

Of

R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5 to 7 membered saturated, optionally benzo-fused heterocycle which may contain up to two further heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S and which may be substituted by amino, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonylamino or phenyl,

represents hydrogen or benzyl, straight chain or branched (C₁-C₆) alkyl which may be mono or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of mono (C₁-C₆) alkylamino, di (C₁-C₆) alkylamino, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, (C₁-C₆) alkoxycarbonyl, carboxyl, pyridyl and (C₆-C₁₀) aryl, where the latter for its part is optionally substituted by halogen, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl or (C₁-C₆)-alkoxy, represents (C₃-C₈) cycloalkyl or represents a 5 to 7-membered heterocycle which contains one or two nitrogen atoms, where cycloalkyl and heterocycle are optionally substituted by (C₁-C₄) alkyl,

represents <u>benzyl</u> straight-chain or branched (C₁-C₁₅) alkyl which may be substituted by (C₃-C₈) cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, phenyl, phenoxy or benzyloxy, where the aromatic radicals mentioned for their part which may each be substituted up to three times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl and (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, or

represents (C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl which may be substituted by (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy or phenyl,

represents <u>phenyl</u> (C_6 - C_{10})-aryl which may be substituted up to three times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of (C_1 - C_6)-alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)-alkoxy, halogen, cyano, amino, trifluoromethyl and phenyl,

or

represents a 5 or 6 membered saturated or aromatic, optionally benzo-fused heterocycle having up to two heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S,

Of

represents a group of the formula -OR²⁹ or -NR³⁰R³¹,

in-which

R²⁹ represents straight-chain or branched (C₁-C₆) alkyl,

and

R³⁰ and R³¹ are identical or different and independently of one another

represent hydrogen, straight-chain or branched (C_1 - C_{12})-alkyl which may be substituted by aminocarbonyl, a group of the formula $-NR^{32}R^{33}$, 5—or 6-membered heteroaryl which contains up to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, or by phenyl, where phenyl is optionally substituted up to two times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, (C_1 - C_4)-alkyl, trifluoromethyl and (C_1 - C_4)-alkoxy,

represent (C₃-C₈) cycloalkyl which may be substituted by (C₁-C₄) alkyl,

represent (C₆-C₁₀) aryl which may be substituted up to three times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, (C₁-C₄) alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, amino, phenyl and phenoxy,

or

represent a 5- to 7-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocycle which contains one or two nitrogen atoms and is optionally substituted by (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or an oxo group,

where

R³² and R³³ are identical or different and independently of one another represent hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl, phenyl or (C₆-C₁₀)-arylsulphonyl,

or

together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered saturated heterocycle which optionally contains up to two further heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S,

Of

R³⁰ and R³¹ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-to 7-membered saturated heterocycle which may contain up to two further heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O

and S and which may be substituted by amino, (C₁-C₆) alkyl, (C₁-C₄) alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxycarbonylamino, phenyl or pyridyl,

R¹³—represents a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic 5- to 10-membered heterocycle having up to three identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, which is optionally substituted by one, two or three identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, hydroxyl, oxo, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, halogen, cyano, carboxyl and (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl, with the proviso that X in this case does not represent SO or SO₂;

or

R¹³ represents the group -NR³⁴R³⁵ in which

R³⁴-and R³⁵-are identical or different and represent hydrogen, (C₁-C₈)-alkyl which—may be substituted by (C₆-C₁₀)-aryl, represent (C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl, (C₆-C₁₀) aryl or represent 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl having up to three identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S where aryl and heteroaryl for their part are in each case optionally mono- or disubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of hydroxyl, amino, cyano, halogen, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, carboxyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl and mono- and di-(C₁-C₄) alkylaminocarbonyl,

M—represents C=O, CH(OH), CHF or CF₂;

and

R¹⁴—has the meaning of R¹⁰ given above,

 R^7 represents hydrogen, (C_1-C_4) -alkyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkanoyl,

and

Z represents a group of the formula

in which

- A represents O or S,
- a represents the number 0 or 1,
- D represents a straight-chain (C₁-C₄)-alkylene group which may be mono- or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, hydroxyl and fluorine,

and

R³⁶ represents OR³⁷ or NR³⁸R³⁹, in which

 R^{37} , R^{38} and R^{39} are identical or different and each represents hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6) -alkyl or (C_3-C_8) -cycloalkyl which for their part are optionally mono- or polysubstituted by identical or

different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, amino, carboxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonylamino, (C_1-C_5) -alkanoyloxy, a heterocycle or by phenyl which for its part is optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxyl,

and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, hydrates and hydrates of the salts or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate, or hydrate of a salt thereof.

2. (Currently amended) Compounds A compound of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1

in which

X represents O, S, CH₂ or CF₂,

R¹ and R² are identical or different and represent hydrogen or methyl,

- R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent hydrogen, halogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, CF₃, CH₂F, vinyl or (C₃-C₅)-cycloalkyl, where at least one of the two substituents is not hydrogen,
- R⁵ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, fluorine, chlorine or bromine,
- R⁶ represents a group of the formula -S(O)₂-R¹⁰ [[,]] or -NR¹¹-C(O)-R¹², -CH₂-R¹³-or -M-R¹⁴ [[,]] in which
 - R¹⁰ represents NR¹⁶R¹⁷, (C₁-C₈)-alkyl, (C₅-C₇)-cycloalkyl, phenyl [[,]] or benzyl or represents a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic 5- to 10-

membered heterocycle having up to three identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, where the abovementioned radicals are optionally substituted by one, two or three identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, oxo, cyano, nitro, amino, dimethylamino, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, (C₃-C₆)-cycloalkyl, or phenyl, which for its parts is optionally substituted by halogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, nitro or cyano, -C(O)-OR²², -C(O)-NR²³R²⁴, -SO₂-NR²⁵R²⁶, -NH-C(O)-R²⁷ and -NH-C(O)-OR²⁸, where

 R^{22} , R^{23} , R^{24} , R^{25} , R^{26} , R^{27} and R^{28} are identical or different and each represents hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkyl or (C_5-C_7) -cycloalkyl which for their part are optionally mono- or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, amino, carboxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonylamino or (C_1-C_5) -alkanoyloxy,

and

R¹⁶-and R¹⁷-are identical or different and independently of one another represent hydrogen, straight-chain or branched (C₁-C₆)-alkyl which may be mone or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl, carboxyl, pyridyl or phenyl, where the latter for its part is optionally substituted by halogen, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or (C₁-C₄) alkoxy,

represent (C₅-C₇)-cycloalkyl or represent a 5 to 7-membered heterocycle which contains one or two nitrogen atoms, where cycloalkyl and heterocycle are optionally substituted by (C₁-C₄) alkyl,

Of

- R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- to 7-membered saturated heterocycle which may contain up to two further heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S and which may be substituted by amino, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxycarbonylamino or phenyl,
- R¹¹ represents hydrogen or , straight-chain or branched (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, benzyl, (C₃-C₇) cycloalkyl or represents a 5 to 7-membered heterocycle which contains one or two nitrogen atoms, where cycloalkyl and heterocycle are optionally substituted by (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,
- R¹² represents <u>benzyl</u> straight chain or branched (C₁-C₈) alkyl which may be substituted by (C₃-C₇) cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, phenyl, phenoxy or benzyloxy, where the aromatic radicals mentioned for their part which may each be substituted up to three times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl and (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy,

or

represents phenyl which may be substituted up to three times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, halogen, cyano, amino and trifluoromethyl,

or

represents a group of the formula -OR²⁹ or -NR³⁰R³¹, in which

R²⁹—represents straight-chain or branched (C₁-C₄) alkyl,

and

R³⁰ and R³¹ are identical or different and independently of one another

represent hydrogen, straight chain or branched (C₁-C₈) alkyl which may be substituted by phenyl, which for its part is optionally substituted up to two times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, (C₁-C₄) alkyl, trifluoromethyl and (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy,

represent (C₃-C₇) cycloalkyl which may be substituted by (C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

or

represent phenyl which may be substituted up to three times by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of

halogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy and amino,

or

R³⁰ and R³¹ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- to 7-membered saturated heterocycle which may contain up to two further heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S and which may be substituted by amino, (C₁-C₄) alkyl, (C₁-C₄) alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxycarbonylamino or phenyl,

R¹³ represents a saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic 5- or 6-membered heterocycle having up to three identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, which is optionally substituted by one, two or three identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, hydroxyl, oxo, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, halogen, cyano, carboxyl and (C₁-C₄) alkoxycarbonyl,

OF

represents the group -NR34R35, in which

R³⁴ and R³⁵ are identical or different and represent hydrogen,

(C₁-C₆) alkyl, which may be substituted by phenyl, represent

(C₅-C₇) cycloalkyl, phenyl or represent 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl having up to three identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, where phenyl and

heteroaryl for their part are each optionally mono- or disubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of hydroxyl, amino, cyano, halogen, (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, carboxyl or (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl,

M represents C-O, CH(OH) or CF₂,

and

R¹⁴— has the meaning of R¹⁰ given above,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, methyl or acetyl,

and

Z represents a group of the formula

$$A_a$$
 D R^{36}

in which

- A represents O or S,
- a represents the number 0 or 1,
- D represents a straight-chain (C₁-C₃)-alkylene group which may be mono- or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl and fluorine,

and

R³⁶ represents OR³⁷ or NR³⁸R³⁹, in which

R³⁷ represents hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl or (C₃-C₇)-cycloalkyl which for their part are optionally mono- or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, amino, carboxyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonylamino, and (C₁-C₅)-alkanoyloxy and a heterocycle,

and

 R^{38} and R^{39} are identical or different and each represents hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ -alkyl or $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$ -cycloalkyl, which for their part are optionally mono- or polysubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, amino, carboxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$ -alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$ -alkoxycarbonyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$ -alkoxycarbonylamino, $(C_1\text{-}C_5)$ -alkanoyloxy, a heterocycle and phenyl which for its part is optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxyl,

and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, hydrates and hydrates of the salts or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate, or hydrate of a salt thereof.

3. (Currently amended) Compounds A compound of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1

in which

X represents O, S or CH₂,

R¹ and R² represent hydrogen,

- R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, chlorine or bromine,
- R⁵ represents hydrogen,
- R⁶ represents a group of the formula $-S(O)_2-R^{10}$, $-NH-C(O)-R^{12}$, $-CH_2-R^{13}$, $-C(O)-R^{14}$ or $-CH(OH)-R^{40}$, in which
 - R¹⁰ represents phenyl or represents 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl having up to three identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, which is radicals are optionally mono- or disubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxyl, cyano, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, carboxyl and (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl,

Of

represents the group -NR 16R 17, in which

- R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6 membered saturated heterocycle which may contain a further heteroatom from the group consisting of N, O and S and which may be substituted by (C₁-C₄) alkyl,
- R¹² represents straight-chain or branched (C₁-C₆)-alkyl which is optionally substituted by phenoxy or benzyloxy,

R¹³ represents 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl having up to three identical or different heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O and S, which is optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₄) alkyl, hydroxyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, cyano, carboxyl and (C₁-C₄) alkoxycarbonyl, or represents the group NR³⁴R³⁵, in which

and

 R^{35} —represents benzyl which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring by hydroxyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, (C_4-C_4) -alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluorine, chlorine or cyano,

R¹⁴ represents a group of the formula -NR⁴¹R⁴², in which

R⁴¹—represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₆) alkyl or (C₂-C₇) cycloalkyl,

R⁴² represents hydrogen or represents (C₁-C₄) alkyl which may be substituted by phenyl,

Of

R⁴¹-and-R⁴²-together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle which may contain a further heteroatom from the group consisting of N, O and S and which may be substituted by (C₁-C₄) alkyl,

and

- R⁴⁰—represents phenyl or naphthyl, which are optionally mono- or disubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, cyano, trifluoromethyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl,
- R⁷ represents hydrogen,

and

Z represents a group of the formula

in which R^{36} represents hydroxyl or the radical -C(O)- R^{36} has the meanings of R^{36} given above for a group which, in the sense of a prodrug, can be degraded to the carboxylic acid -C(O)-OH or a salt thereof,

and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, hydrates and hydrates of the salts or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate, or hydrate of a salt thereof.

4. (Currently amended) Compounds A compound of the general formula (I) according to Claim 1

in which

X represents CH₂ or , in particular, oxygen,

R¹ and R² represent hydrogen,

- R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, trifluoromethyl, chlorine or bromine,
- R⁵ represents hydrogen,
- R^6 represents a group of the formula -S(O)₂-R¹⁰, -CH₂-R¹³ or -C(O) R¹⁴, in which
 - R^{10} represents phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl which is are optionally mono- or disubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxyl, cyano, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, carboxyl and (C_1-C_4) -alkoxycarbonyl,

or

represents a group of the formula

R¹³ represents pyridyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl which are optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituents selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₄) alkyl, hydroxyl, (C₁-C₄) alkoxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, cyano, carboxyl and (C₁-C₄) alkoxycarbonyl, or represents the group NR³⁴R³⁵, in which

R³⁴—represents (C₁-C₄) alkyl or (C₅-C₇) cycloalkyl,

and

R³⁵—represents benzyl which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring by hydroxyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, fluorine, chlorine or cyano,

and

R¹⁴ represents a group of the formula NR⁴¹R⁴², in which

 R^{44} —represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₄) alkyl or (C₅-C₇) cycloalkyl,

and

R⁴²— represents hydrogen or represents (C₁-C₄)-alkyl which may be substituted by phenyl,

R⁷ represents hydrogen,

and

Z represents a group of the formula

$$OR^{37}$$
 OR^{37} $OR^{$

in which R³⁷ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or (C₄-C₆)-cycloalkyl,

and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, hydrates and hydrates of the salts or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, hydrate, or hydrate of a salt thereof.

5. (Currently amended) Compounds A compound of the formula (Ia)

$$R^6$$
 X
 R^3
(Ia),

in which

X represents CH₂ or O,

R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent bromine, trifluoromethyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl and, in particular, methyl or chlorine,

Z represents a group of the formula $-CH_2-C(O)-OH$, $-CH_2-CH_2-C(O)-OH$, $-O-CH_2-C(O)-OH$ or $-S-CH_2-C(O)-OH$,

and

- R⁶ represents a group of the formula -S(O)₂-R¹⁰, in which
 - R¹⁰ represents phenyl or represents pyridyl which is are optionally mono- or disubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, cyano, trifluoromethyl, methyl, hydroxyl and methoxy.
- 6. (Currently amended) Compounds A compound of the formula (Ia)

$$R^6$$
 X
 Z
(Ia),

in which

X represents CH₂ or O,

- R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent bromine, trifluoromethyl, ethyl, cyclopropyl and, in particular, methyl or chlorine,
- Z represents a group of the formula $-CH_2-C(O)-OH$, $-CH_2-CH_2-C(O)-OH$, $-O-CH_2-C(O)-OH$, $-O-C[(CH_3)_2]-C(O)-OH$ or $-S-CH_2-C(O)-OH$,

and

- R⁶ represents a group of the formula -S(O)₂-R¹⁰, in which
- R¹⁰ represents phenyl or represents pyridyl which <u>is</u> are optionally mono- or disubstituted by identical or different substituents from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, cyano, trifluoromethyl, methyl, hydroxyl and methoxy.
- 7. (Canceled)
- 8. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6.
- 9. (Currently amended) A process for preparing pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 is converted, using excipients or carriers, into a suitable administration form.
- 10. (Canceled)
- 11. (Currently amended) A method of preventing or treating arteriosclerosis, obesity or hypercholesterolaemia comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a composition empound of claim 8.

- 12. (Currently amended) A method of preventing or treating depression, goiter or cancer of the thyroid gland disease forms which can be treated with natural thyroid hormone comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a composition compound of claim 8.
- 13. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of arteriosclerosis, hypercholesterolaemia, dyslipidaemia, obesity, cardiac insufficiency, pulmonary emphysema, pain, migraine, Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis, cardiac arrhythmias, hypothyroidism, skin disorders or diabetes disorders comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6.
- 14. (Currently amended) Process A process for preparing compounds of the formula (I) as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that a reactive phenol derivatives derivative of the general formula (II)

$$\begin{array}{c} R^{6} \\ \hline \\ PG-O \\ \hline \\ R^{5} \end{array} \hspace{1cm} (II)$$

in which

 ${\rm R}^5$ and ${\rm R}^6$ are as defined in Claim 1 and

PG represents a protective group and

V represents a binding or leaving group,

are <u>is</u> reacted, if appropriate with isolation of the intermediates, or directly, with <u>a</u> reactive phenyl <u>derivatives</u> derivative of the <u>general</u> formula (III)

$$\mathbb{R}^{4}$$
 \mathbb{R}^{2}
 \mathbb{R}^{1}
 \mathbb{R}^{1}
 \mathbb{R}^{1}
 \mathbb{R}^{1}
 \mathbb{R}^{1}

in which

 $R^1,\,R^2,\,R^3$ and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1 and

- W represents a binding or leaving group and
- Z' has the meaning given for Z or represents OH, O-PG, SH, S-PG, or represents an aldehyde, cyano, carboxyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxycarbonyl group,

if appropriate in the presence of inert solvents solvent and catalysts a catalyst, to give compounds a compound of the formula (I).